

[7 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sudden spurt in activities of ULFA during the last few days;

(b) whether Non-Assamese people have started fleeing from Assam, due to such activities; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government to check fleeing of people from the State and to control activities of ULFA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Between 5-8 January 2007, ULFA killed 61 Hindi speaking persons, mostly seasonal labourers and petty vendors in Upper Assam.

(b) According to reports, some of the seasonal labourers had left Assam following the ULFA attacks.

(c) The Government of Assam has strengthened security to protect the vulnerable sections of the society. Additional Central Police Forces and Army units have been deployed for coordinated action against ULFA and other extremists groups. Government is also helping the State Government in enhancing the capabilities of the State by modernization of State Police Forces and reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure. The security situation in Assam is also reviewed in the meetings of the Unified Hqrs chaired by the Chief Minister of Assam from time to time. Government of India is also monitoring the situation at periodic intervals.

Killings by ULFA

927. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been large number of deaths and killings by the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam in the month of January 2007, where heavy toll of lives of migrant workers was taken;

- (b) if so, what is the total number of migrants, State-wise, killed so far;
- (c) to what extent situation has been brought under control; and
- (d) whether stringent measures have been suggested to avoid such exigency in future in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Between 5-8 January 2007, ULFA killed 61 Hindi speaking persons, mostly seasonal labourers and petty vendors in Upper Assam.

(c) and (d) The Government of Assam has strengthened security to protect the vulnerable sections of the society. Additional Central Police Forces and Army units have been deployed for coordinated action against ULFA and other extremists groups. Government is also helping the State Government in enhancing the capabilities of the State by modernization of State Police Forces and reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure. The security situation in Assam is also reviewed in the meetings of the Unified Hqrs chaired by the Chief Minister of Assam from time to time. Government of India is also monitoring the situation at periodic intervals.

Prevention of custodial deaths

928. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there were 359 deaths in the police custody in the past three years and according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures, as many as 144 out of the 359 custodial deaths were reported in 2005 alone;
- (b) whether it is a fact that deaths were reported not only when victims had been remanded to police custody by court, but occurred in cases where police took suspects into detention; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to prevent the custodial deaths?